REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 20, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, as respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 24-43. Previously-presented claims 1-23 are not being cancelled for reasons of patentability, rather, previously-presented claims 1-23 have been replaced herein with new claims 24-43 to further scope the invention. Thus, no estoppel effect, as may be applied by *Festo* or its progeny, should be applied to the claims. No new matter has been added to the subject application as a result of the changes made thereto.

The Examiner's formal objections to the claims noted at cipher 2, page 2, of the Official Action is believed moot in view of the claim amendments herein. Likewise, no specific discussion of the Examiner's rejection of claim 22 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as noticed at ciphers 7 and 8 (page 2) of the Official Action is believed necessary.

To the extent the Examiner's claim rejections remain relevant to the claims now presented, Applicants respond as follows.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects previously-resented claims 1-23 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (6,370,599) in view of Yoshida (5,928,372).

The Examiner points to Anand as disclosing a network communication system comprising an information handling apparatus (IHA) coupled to a network adapter, said IHA being operative to transfer a security association to the network adapter. The Examiner points to Figures 3 and 4 of Anand as disclosing these limitations.

As an initial matter, Anand et al. disclose apparatus and methodology to offload processing tasks from the computer system to the network interface card (NIC). The description of Figures 3 and 4 of Anand et al. found at column 10, line 43 – column 12, line 60 describes the process of offloading tasks from the computer system to the NIC in detail.

In contrast, Applicants' invention of independent claim 29 requires "a network adapter comprising an integrated circuit, said integrated circuit, said integrated circuit is capable of receiving a security association and a first integrity indicator, <u>said SA and first integrity indicator</u>

being generated by an information handling apparatus (IHA), ..." (newly presented claim 29).

Applicants' invention of independent claims 24, 34 and 39 each require similar limitations.

As stated, Anand et al. teach methodology to offload processing tasks from the computer system to the NIC. Thus, Anand actually teaches away from the present invention, as currently claimed, since the present invention requires that a security association and a first integrity indicator are generated at the IHA (in at least one embodiment the IHA may include a computer system).

The Examiner then relies on Yoshida to supply the missing teachings of Anand et al. by pointing to Yoshida as disclosing a data transfer system in which a host processor transfers data and an associated integrity indicator to a peripheral device and the peripheral device verifies the integrity of the data and provides a verification result to the host processor. However, Yoshida is directed to a method and apparatus for verifying data transfer between a data processor and an external recording unit.

In contrast, as stated above, Applicant's invention of independent claim 24 is directed to a network adapter that receives a security association and first integrity indicator that are generated by an information handling apparatus.

In summary, Anand et al. disclose a network interface card in communication with a computer system but teaches away from the computer system generating security association information. Yoshida teaches data verification between a data processor and an external recording unit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Anand et al. with the non-analogous teachings of Yoshida to achieve or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

Thus, is it respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims 24-43 are patentable over any combination of Anand et al. and Yoshida. According, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Anand et al. in view of Yoshida cannot be sustained, since newly presented claims 24-43 claim structure and function that are not taught in the combination of Anand et al. and Yoshida. Thus, early allowance in earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 09/849,126
Filing Date: May 4, 2001
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE ERRORS OF A SECURITY ASSOCIATION
Assignee: Intel Corporation

Page 8
Dkt: P10990 (80107.392US1)

In the event there are any fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

AVRAHAM MUALEM ET AL.

By their Representatives,

Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pfleger PLLC
c/o PortfolioIP
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
603-668-6560

Date ___3/21/05___   By _____
                          Edmund P. Pfleger
                          Reg. No. 41,252

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21 day of March, 2005.

_____   _____
Name   Signature